THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R.BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been slight increase in the reported incidents of casualties involving Indian seafarers on Indian ships in Indian territorial waters. Details of such accidents during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) As per Section 358 of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, a shipping casualty shall be deemed to occur when:

(i) on or near the coasts of Indian, any ship is lost, abandoned, stranded or materially damaged;

(ii) on or near the coasts of Indian, any ship causes loss or material damage to any other ship;

(iii) any loss of life ensues by reason of any casualty happening to or on board any ship on or near the coasts of India;

(iv) in any place, any such loss, abandonment, stranding, material damage or casualty as above mentioned occurs to or on board any Indian ship, and any competent witness thereof is found in India;

(v) any Indian ship is lost or is supposed to have been lost and any evidence is obtainable in India as to the circumstances under which she proceeded to sea or was heard of ;

In all such cases, the appointed officer makes the preliminary inquiry into the casaulty. However, no investigation is conducted under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 in casualities falling out side the purview of section 358 of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

Status of reported casualties involving Indian seafarers on Indian ships (including Indian Fishing Vessels) on Indian Coast during the last three years.

	2003		2004		2005	
	Indian Ships	Indian Fishing Vessels	Indian Ships	Indian Fishing Vessels	Indian Ships	Indian Fishing Vessels
Lives Lost	3	Nil	3	1	6	2
Injuries	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	4

Development of ports in Maharashtra

1787. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had submitted proposals for the development of ports in the Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals which are still pending and the progress made so far in respect thereof; and

(c) when were these proposals mooted and the reasons for the delay?

The MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Maharashtra Maritime Board had proposed four porjects of development of minor ports at Jaigad, Dharamtar, Redi and Vijaydurg under the proposed National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP). Government has for the time being decided to prepare the National Maritime Development Programme, comprising schemes/ projects for development of Major Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport Systems.

Cost of Sethu Samudram Project

1788. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimate of the cost of Sethu Samudram project; and

(b) what is the amount alloted so far, and by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The approved cost of the project is Rs.2427.40 crores.

(b) The Government of India have contributed Rs.51 crores and other equity partners have contributed Rs.44.50 crores so far towards equity. The project is scheduled to be completed by November, 2008.

Nh-5 in Andhra Pradesh

1789. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI has not responded positively to some representations pertaining to design and maintenance of some section of the NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that representation have been made to the NHAI regarding faulty design on NH-5 between the stretch from Rajanagaram to Annavaram in East Godavari district;